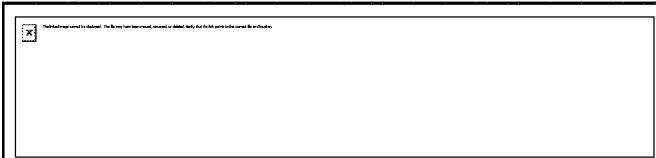


**From:** Governor Deval L. Patrick <constituent.service@state.ma.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 31, 2012 11:59 PM  
**To:** Farak, Sonja (DPH)  
**Subject:** One Year Later



Dear Colleagues,

One year ago today, tornadoes ripped through Western and Central Massachusetts, leaving a path of destruction some 40-miles long. Homes and families were devastated. Communities were torn apart.

In state government, we launched an immediate response to help the impacted communities rebuild, renew and rebound. State employees from every corner of the Commonwealth travelled to Brimfield, Springfield, Monson and other affected communities, many working around the clock to provide emergency assistance. Over the past year, we have stayed close to those same communities, dedicated significant resources to rebuilding projects and partnered with federal and local officials to get businesses and homeowners back on their feet.

I am grateful for the many of you who went above and beyond in a time of crisis. I want to thank each and every one of you for your commitment to serving the people of Massachusetts and for embodying what good government is all about: coming together to help people help themselves.

Though there may be future storms and challenges ahead, we have the vision and the team to build a better future, together, for the next generation. Thank you for all you do today and every day.

Sincerely,

